

## Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-02 /017 W

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R 210759Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 186

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4560

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI DTD -; MAY H/W  
RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION:

QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PK

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR DOCTORS

1. WE ARE DISTURBED BY INCREASINGLY COMMON PRACTICE WHERE IMMIGRATING DOCTORS HAVE PASSPORTS GIVING THEIR PROFESSION AS ANYTHING ELSE. PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED EVEN THOUGH SUBJECT IS EMPLOYED AS DOCTOR AT TIME OF ISSUANCE OF PASSPORT. IT CIRCUMVENTS PAKISTAN IMMIGRATION CONTROLS AND PROBABLY INVOLVES "COOPERATION" BY LOCAL PASSPORT AUTHORITIES. OUR EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT LESS THAN 10PC OF IMMIGRANT DOCTORS HAVE "DOCTOR" LISTED AS THEIR PROFESSION.
  2. WE RECENTLY LEARNED THAT GOP INTENDS TO TIGHTEN ENFORCEMENT OF BAN ON IMMIGRATION OF DOCTORS. TODAY, FOR FIRST TIME, NO OBJECTION TO GOING ABROAD CERTIFICATE (NOC) ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ISLAMABAD, AND SIGNED BY M. W. BEG, SECTION OFFICER, WAS PRESENTED BY TWO APPLICANTS. BOTH NOC'S STATE BEARER INTENDS TO REMAIN ABROAD FOR THREE YEARS AS STUDENT (OF CARDIOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY RESPECTIVELY). NEITHER APPLICANT PRESENTED OTHER EVIDENCE TO INDICATE
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INTENTION TO RETURN TO PAKISTAN. (NEITHER APPLICANT

HAS BEEN ACCEPTED OR APPLIED TO ANY MEDICAL SCHOOL OR TRAINING PROGRAM IN US.) IT APPEARS THAT THE NEW CONTROL DOCUMENT AND THE INTENDED MEANS OF CIRCUMVENTING IT HAVE SIMULTANEOUSLY APPEARED.

3. COMMENT: THIS SITUATION RAISES BASIC QUESTIONS. GOP, WHICH USAID IS ASSISTING IN DEVELOPING HEALTH SERVICES, HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IF NATION'S TRAINED DOCTORS EMIGRATE AND PROCESS LOWERS RATION OF DOCTORS TO POPULATION. ON OTHER SIDE OF COIN, WE HAVE HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM US THAT CONTINUING INFUS OF POORLY TRAINED FOREIGN DOCTORS IS DETRIMENTAL TO MEDICAL CARE THERE, AND THAT SUCH DOCTORS ARE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE WHILE AMERICANS WHO CANNOT PASS STIFF REQUIREMENTS OF DOMESTIC MEDICAL SCHOOLS ARE BARRED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVICE ASAP AS TO WHETHER WE SHOULD ACCEPT PRESENT TWO APPLICATIONS, THUS ESSENTIALLY FOLLOWING PREVIOUS PRACTICE (ALTHOUGH BEFORE WE WERE NEVER PRESENTED WITH NOC'S STATING APPLICANTS WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO GO AS STUDENTS), OR WHETHER WE SHOULD (A) CONFRONT APPLICANTS WITH PROVISIONS OF NOC AND REQUIRE THEM TO PURSUE NIV APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT VISAS OR (B) REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO OBTAIN FRESH NOC'S GRANTING THEM PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. MOREOVER, SHOULD WE REQUIRE SUCH APPLICANTS TO HAVE PASSPORTS AMENDED TO REFLECT TRUE PROFESSION?  
GRIFFIN

UNQUOTE.  
BYROADE

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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